



H.Res. 826– Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the hanging of nooses is a horrible act when used for the purpose of intimidation and which under certain circumstances can be a criminal act that should be thoroughly investigated by Federal law enforcement authorities and that any criminal violations should be vigorously prosecuted

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 826 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Rep. Al Green (D-TX) on November 14, 2007. The legislation was referred to the Judiciary Committee, but was never considered.

H.Res. 826 is expected to be considered on the floor on December 4, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 826 expresses a sense of Congress that the hanging of nooses is a horrible act when used for the purpose of intimidation and which under certain circumstances can be criminal. The legislation also requests Federal authorities to investigate any instances of noose-hanging and that the perpetrators be “vigorously prosecuted.”

BACKGROUND

In the past two months, nooses have been found in a North Carolina high school, a Home Depot in New Jersey, a Louisiana school playground, the campus of the University of Maryland, a Columbia University professor's office door, and a factory in Houston, Texas.

The Southern Poverty Law Center has recorded between 40 and 50 suspected hate crimes involving nooses since September 2007, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has filed more than 30 lawsuits that involve the displaying of nooses in places of employment since 2001.

STAFF CONTACT

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